

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Pursuant to the request of the Examiner, Applicant respectfully requests that the Abstract of the Disclosure be amended, beginning at page 26, line 1, as follows:

-- **ABSTRACT**

Roller cone drilling wherein the bit optimization process equalizes the downforce (axial force) for the cones (as nearly as possible, subject to other design constraints). **Bit performance is significantly enhanced by equalizing downforce.** --